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STRATEGIC PLANNING FOR REGIONAL LIBRARIES

A two-day strategic planning conference was held Friday and Saturday, January 24-25 at the Nova Scotia Provincial Library. The delegates included library directors and library board chairs as well as library staff from Nova Scotia's regional libraries, the Nova Scotia Provincial Library, Novanet and other stakeholders from the library community in Nova Scotia. Sharon Horne and Raymond Clark of People Development, Ltd. facilitated the work of the delegates in charting the course for regional libraries into the next century.

The Minister of Education and Culture, the Honourable Robbie Harrison, opened the conference by thanking the delegates for the time and effort that had gone into both the current undertaking and the past strategic planning effort. He noted that libraries are well-positioned for future success with the new electronic links that are strengthening the cooperation that regional libraries have already developed among themselves and with strategic partners in the communities they serve. He encouraged libraries to pursue partnerships which will benefit them in delivering services to all Nova Scotians. Mr. Harrison also offered an opportunity for the libraries to collaborate with the Department of Education and Culture's public relations staff and resources to increase the public's awareness of all that Nova Scotia's public libraries have to offer.

The balance of the two-day session was spent working through various issues which the regional libraries face now and in the near future. Among these were the questions of what library services should look like by the year 2000 and what it will take to get libraries from here to there. Questions about access, funding and fund raising, governance and the relationships among regional libraries and their closest partners in delivering quality library service to Nova Scotians were discussed in various groupings of delegates. The goal was to achieve a consensus on broad principles of regional library service and to get a clear indication of where further discussion is needed to allow regional libraries to move forward and be all that they can be for the new millennium.

The next step will be for the facilitators to synthesize the results from the delegates' work into a draft strategic plan for regional libraries. The draft will be circulated by mid-February to the conference delegates for their input. It is anticipated that a final plan will be ready for implementation in the new fiscal year.

A reception for conference delegates was hosted by the Halifax Regional Library Board at its North Branch on Gottingen Street following the Friday sessions. This provided a welcome respite from the serious work of the conference and allowed time for the conference attendees to socialize with each

other and to visit the North Branch Library. For more information, please contact Debbie Taylor at the Provincial Library (hlfxprol.educprol.taylord c@g gov.ns.ca).

COLCHESTER-EAST HANTS FUNDING ANNOUNCED

The Provincial Government has recently announced a funding grant of $163,500 for the Colchester-East Hants Regional Library. This is the second phase of provincial funding to automate the regional library under a program called "Operation Leapfrog", bringing the total provincial investment in the project to almost $200,000. Part of the funding will be used for additional computer terminals, with Internet access, for library branches in Truro, Elmsdale, Tatamagouche and Stewiacke. Information collections in the four branches will also be automated and linked into the provincial system giving users greater access to a wider selection of library materials.

REGIONAL LIBRARY NcompasS AUTOMATION UPDATE

The Provincial Library's Technical Services staff are pleased to announce that they no longer have a cataloguing backlog for fiction books! They have worked extremely hard to diminish this backlog and it is no small accomplishment.

Staff of the Western Counties Regional Library are now adding the item records for their additional copies to the bibliographic records populating their own bank on NcompasS - Bank 5. Concurrently, they are entering new patron information for users of their library branches, having completed the barcoding of all collections. Circulation is expected to begin branch by branch early this Spring.

Annapolis Valley Regional Library's retrospective conversion is now complete and their own bank on NcompasS, Bank 6, is about to be populated by bibliographic records extracted from Bank 1. All item records from their in-house Oracle database will be loaded directly afterwards.

Pictou-Antigonish Regional Library and Colchester-East Hants Regional Library are involved in preparing their patron databases for their own banks, Bank 7 and 8 respectively.

Pre-implementation planning meetings have taken place at both South Shore Regional Library and Cape Breton Regional Library. Active implementation will be starting in both these regional libraries in the next few months.

The DRA/MultiLIS software has been satisfactorily upgraded to version 11.1. This version incorporates the year 2000 into all accounting and dating procedures and has made NcompasS Z39.50 compliant with the addition of this protocol to the server.

NSGLC COMMON STANDARD FORMAT

On December 4, the Working Committee on the Common Standard Format for the bibliographic records

of all member libraries of the Nova Scotia Government Libraries Council presented their first draft of the standard to the Council. Different elements in the two-level standard were discussed by Marged Dewar (Department of Education and Culture library), chair of the Committee. Members voted to bring their comments to the next NSGLC meeting on March 5. The adoption of this standard is necessary to forming a Special Libraries union catalogue for resource sharing purposes. As all libraries gradually adopt the Common Standard Format and bring their electronic records into line with at least its minimum requirements, they will be well situated to periodically submit copies of their catalogue to a merged database of Nova Scotia Special Library holdings, thus enhancing the resource sharing capabilities of Nova Scotia libraries.

ON THE TRAINING FRONT

On January 13, the Provincial Library's Johanna Cooper delivered a training session to eight staff members of the Colchester-East Hants Regional Library at the Truro headquarters in preparation for building their patron database. Work on entering patron records using existing patron registration files will begin shortly at the headquarters.

On January 20, Johanna delivered a training session on the Public Access E-mail Project to fifteen staff members of the South Shore Regional Library. Through this project, which is jointly sponsored by the Nova Scotia Federation of Community Nets and the Chebucto Community Net, members of the public in Nova Scotia can obtain e-mail accounts from the Chebucto Community Net at no charge. These accounts can be accessed at public access terminals located throughout the province in public libraries, schools, and at other community access sites. To support the public as they learn to use e-mail, library staff received training in registering for a Chebucto Community Net account and in the basics of using PINE, the CCN e-mail software package.

INTERNET WORLD CANADA '97

Internet World Canada '97 was held in Toronto, January 7-10. It was promoted as Canada's first and largest Intranet and World Wide Web Conference and Exhibition attracting roughly 5000 attendees. The conference focused on serving the business community and the exhibits were highly promotion and hype oriented. The exhibits featured everything from mime shows to small classes at workstations where you could develop your own home page.

Of particular interest were sessions on the best practices on the Internet, publishing information on the Web, finding research information on the Web, designing a good Web service, coming attractions in Web tools, the best Web search engines, Internet marketing strategies, and Internet banking.

The Hon. Jon M. Gerrard, Secretary of State for Science, Research & Development delivered the keynote address on "Canada, the Internet and the Future". He discussed the implications of the Internet in terms of enhancing democracy, as well as the continuing work of the Information Highway Advisory Council and its impact by developing Computers for Schools, Community Access, Digital Collections

and Student Connections programs.

A panel of business executives examined "The Future of the Internet in Canada" and suggested that those who can develop their services on the Internet to provide more value and better access will have the key to success.

Internet IMPACT Awards were given out and the Site of the Year was TSN (http://www.tsn.ca). A CD-ROM of all the conference proceedings will be available towards the end of February and may be borrowed from the Provincial Library's Professional Collection. -- Marion Pape

STAFFING NEWS

Keith Cole, who worked in the Provincial Library's shipping unit for almost 30 years, officially retired at the end of January. A joint retirement party for Keith and Ron Merrick of Learning Resources and Technology was held in the classroom at the Provincial Library on January 13. He will be missed by his co-workers throughout the PL.

Elizabeth Parnell has recently commenced working in the Technical Services Section of the Provincial Library. Elizabeth is working for the Colchester East-Hants Regional Library on the retrospective conversion of their manual records, a necessary prerequisite to the automation of this library.

LINKed

This month's theme is museums. If you know of any interesting sites or if you would like to suggest a theme for future columns, please e-mail me (sdirani@nshpl.library.ns.ca).

Nova Scotia Museum of Natural History
http://www.ednet.ns. ca/ /educ/museum/mnh/index.htm
- Find out about their hours, admission prices, what's new, and what's available in the Museum Shop. Under the link "Nova Scotia Nature" there are hundreds of pages of info about the natural history of Nova Scotia such as local poisonous plants and the animals of Sable Island. (For the main page of the Nova Scotia Museum, comprising 25 museums including the Maritime Museum of the Atlantic, go to http://www.ednet.ns.ca/educ/museu m/<).

Canadian Museum of Civilization
http://www.c mcc c.muse.digital.ca/cmc/cmceng/welcmeng.html
- Includes a calendar of events, and information about what's playing in their Imax/Omnimax movie theatre. The "Gallery Tour" allows you to explore their permanent exhibitions on Canada's First Peoples and the history of Canada, their temporary exhibitions, and the Children's Museum exhibits.

National Aviation Museum (Canadian)

http://www.nmstc.ca/nam/
- Under "Exploring the Collections" you can check out all kinds of photos of their aviation collections including a historical photo of the Avro Arrow, the contentious subject of a recent CBC Television drama. There is also a photo essay of Igor Sikorsky, inventor of the helicopter, plus lots more to entertain and inform the viewer (reader? internaut?).

Smithsonian Institute
http://www.si.edu/start.htm
- lots of interesting info here. They even have the Encyclopedia Smithsonian, a compilation of frequently requested information such as the specifications of the Titanic and a detailed description of how mummification was carried out (perhaps too detailed for some). -- Sue Dirani

REFERENCE ON THE NET

More reference questions received at the NS Provincial Library which were answered using the Internet.

Q. Patron wants information on flamenco music, such as its history along with pictures.

A. Searching the term "flamenco" in the Yahoo! search engine (www.yahoo.com) produced a list of sites with a lot of information. Two excellent ones were Flamenco Resources for Beginners (http://www.tele por rt.com/~jdimick/fg/cub/page200x.html) and Ernesto's Flamenco Page (>www.ims.uni-stuttgart.de/ phonetik/ernst/flamenco/ebflamenco.html).

Q. Information on how to play the bagpipes.

A. Again, the Yahoo! search engine was used by searching the term "bagpipe". A number of relevant sites were found such as Instructional Help for Highland & Uilleann Pipes - the Highland Pipe Self Instruction Page (http://w ww- -bprc.mps.ohio-state.edu/~bdaye/teachslf.html#A1.1). -- Carol Morris

PROFESSIONAL READING

In this month's column, such critical library issues as fundraising and library performance evaluation are dealt with in two of the most recent additions to our growing professional book collection. These books can be obtained from the Provincial Library's professional collection through regular interlibrary loan channels.

1) Van Rotterdam, Ingrid - **Building Foundation Partnerships: the Basics of Foundation Fundraising and Proposal Writing**. Toronto: Canadian Centre for Philanthropy, 1995. (Call # Prof 361 .7 Van R)

The primary objectives of this book are to stress the important contribution that foundations make to

Canadian society and to assess the relative importance of foundation funding to your organization and to assign resources accordingly. This book attempts to present the best possible practices in building relationships with foundations. It provides a detailed description of how to prepare a proper proposal for funding.

2) Zweizig, Douglas L. - **The TELL IT Manual: the Complete Program for Evaluating Library Performance**. Chicago: American Library Association, 1996. (Call # Prof. 027 .073 Tel)

This manual is the result of a project initiated in 1992 by the Office of Library Programs in the U.S. Department of Education. Its purpose is to provide better evaluation of library services, so that in the end libraries can promote better programs and services to their clientele. The author emphasizes evaluation as an important part of the planning process. -- Frank Oram